

1 In the claims:

- 2 1. A flex circuit for use in a fuel cell, the flex circuit, comprising:  
3 a fuel-side flexible circuit, comprising:  
4 a first flex substrate, wherein the first flex substrate comprises openings  
5 through which pass liquid fuel,  
6 a first porous layer adjacent the first flex substrate, the first porous layer  
7 including a first catalyst layer,  
8 an anode electrode between the first flex substrate and the first porous  
9 layer, and  
10 a boundary layer disposed adjacent the first porous layer, the boundary  
11 layer preventing cross-over of the liquid fuel;  
12 an air/water-side flexible circuit, disposed in parallel with the fuel-side flexible  
13 circuit, comprising:  
14 a second flex substrate, wherein the second flex substrate comprises  
15 openings through which pass water,  
16 a second porous layer adjacent the second flex substrate, the second  
17 porous layer including a second catalyst layer, and  
18 a cathode electrode between the second flex substrate and the second  
19 porous layer; and  
20 a center section disposed between the first and the second flex circuits, wherein  
21 the first and the second flex substrates are conformable to non-planar shapes.  
22 2. The flex circuit of claim 1, wherein the center section is a proton exchange  
23 membrane.  
24 3. The flex circuit of claim 1, wherein the center section is a channel carrying  
25 dionized water, the center section further comprising spacers to maintain a separation  
26 between the fuel-side flexible circuit and the air/water-side flexible circuit.  
27 4. The flex circuit of claim 1, wherein the flex circuit is formed in a shape of a  
28 cylinder.  
29 5. The flex circuit of claim 4, wherein the liquid fuel is contained within an interior of  
30 the cylindrical flex circuit.



comprises a cylinder.

16. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 15, wherein an interior of the cylindrical flex-based fuel cell comprises liquid fuel.

17. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 16, wherein the liquid fuel is methanol.

18. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 12, further comprising a dry film adhesive disposed between the first flexible substrate and the second flexible substrate.

19. A flex-based fuel cell, comprising:

means for converting liquid fuel to protons, comprising:

means for transporting liquid fuel through the liquid fuel converting

means, and

first means for flexibly supporting the liquid fuel converting means;

means for receiving the protons, comprising:

means for converting the protons to water vapor, and

second means for flexibly supporting the proton converting means; and

means for exchanging the protons from the liquid fuel converting means to the proton converting means.

20. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 19, wherein the liquid fuel transporting means comprises a porous metal layer having means for causing capillary transport of the liquid fuel within the porous metal layer.

21. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 19, wherein the proton exchanging means comprises a proton exchange membrane.

22. The flex-based fuel cell of claim 19, wherein the proton exchanging means comprises a dionized water channel.

23. A method of preparing a flex circuit for a fuel cell, comprising:

patterning a conductive material on flex supporting means having a front surface and a back surface, wherein the conductive material is patterned on the front surface;

attaching a layer of porous material to the conductive material;

depositing a layer of catalytic coating on the surface of the porous material; and

ablating the supporting means from the back surface to make openings so that the porous material is exposed.

- 1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of coating the catalyst layer  
2 with a thin layer of proton transfer membrane.

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